

JCCP response on social media post – Should dermal fillers be reclassified as prescription only devices?

The JCCP understands that any future requirement for fillers to be prescription only will impact some practitioners, however, JCCP's stated priority is public safety and protection. We are also aware that fillers are often used for non-medical/cosmetic purposes, in the same way that other cosmetic treatments that require prescription such as botulinum toxins are. The decision to require prescription status does not relate to the intent, medical or otherwise, of the treatment, but rather to the balance of risk. The risks attached to dermal filler treatments are documented and well known, and complications require medical intervention for safe, legal and effective resolution. Requirements for education and other standards, including premises with regard to infection control can help mitigate this risk, but not avoid it.

It should be noted that the assessment of any member of the public who elects to receive a dermal filler treatment is, in significant part, medically related. There are a myriad of medical cautions and relative contraindications associated with the decision to proceed to treatment that cannot be adequately covered in the absence of clinical oversight.

It should also be noted that advice issued by Health Education England in 2015, which was agreed by all stakeholders, recommended a requirement for supervision to be provided by a prescriber for dermal filler treatments. This supervisor relationship which applies to all non-prescribing practitioners is designed to support both patient safety and practitioner security and a requirement for prescriptions serves only to enhance this relationship

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Notes to Editors:

For general information and enquiries on the JCCP and a full version of the JCCP Guidelines on use of Social Media go to: www.jccp.org.uk

For further information on standards for non-surgical aesthetic treatments and hair restoration surgery please go to: www.cosmeticstandards.org.uk